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How to Spy, in One Easy Lesson

By Dom Bonafede
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During the five years he served in Washington, Col. Stig Eric Constans Wennerstroem, the Swedish air attache, cut a dashing figure. Debonair and handsome as a matinee idol, he was equally popular among top-level government officials and the leading social hostesses.

No diplomatic soiree was complete without Col. Wennerstroem, who, with his Continental manner, charmed the ladies.

Unknown to Washington, however, the colonel was leading a double life as a Soviet spy, identified by his employers by the code name "Eagle."

In testimony given earlier this year at his espionage trial in Stockholm and released yesterday by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, the Swedish diplomat disclosed that his modus operandi for gaining access to secret data was to cultivate U.S. officials and become friendly with their wives.

Col. Wennerstroem's story, detailing his work on behalf of the Soviets and his clandestine meetings with his contacts, reads like a pulp magazine spy thriller. Apprentice spies nonetheless, might find it valuable as a handbook on tricks of the trade.

After agreeing to spy for the Russians in 1948, Col. Wennerstroem was assigned to Washington from April 1952 to May 1957. Of his experiences here, he told his interrogators, "If it is desired to have closer contacts in the U. S., it is necessary, in most cases, to include the women."

He recalled that upon arriving in Washington, "I came into contact with all the leading circles within an hour and at a meeting in the after-

noon of the same day I reported that, according to my judgment the reports received by Moscow on an American attempt to surprisal action were definitely wrong."

Col. Wennerstroem reported that he secured most of his information from conversation with U. S. officials while on junkers to U. S. military installations and defense plants and from classified articles released to him because of his position by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

He said that he generally delivered information, which was almost always on film, to his Soviet contact by way of handshake. The two, he said, practiced for hours before becoming familiar with the technique.

EASY JOB

He confessed that spying in the U. S. was not particularly difficult for him. Since he was a diplomatic and military officer for a neutral country he was held above suspicion when he inquired into secret military developments.

His main task for the Russians was to obtain information on U. S. military technical advances.

On one occasion when the colonel sent the Soviet data on strategic planning in connection with NATO, he was told by his contact, a Russian general, not to bother with such information.

"The general was quite frank when he stated there was no sense to continue this reporting because they had contacts in this field, which were better than myself," he recounted.

Another time he was urgently asked by the Soviets to find out if the U. S. was planning "a sudden surprising action" against the Soviet Union, as reported in Moscow.

Col. Wennerstroem promptly drove to the Pentagon and asked for appointment with "a great number of contacts." when he found that there was no difficulty in seeing them, "I drew my own conclusions and at a meeting in the after-



Col. Stig Wennerstrom

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